

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-39. (canceled).

40. (new): A system for managing a parking space having a prescribed period for parking a vehicle therein, the system including:

a sensor to sense parking of a vehicle in the parking space; and

a processor coupled to the sensor, the processor being programmed to:

charge a fixed charge rate for sensed parking during the prescribed period;

charge a variable charge rate for sensed parking during a subsequent period successive to the prescribed period, wherein the variable charge rate increases for successive time increments of the subsequent period to thereby increasingly discourage overstaying the prescribed period without manually issuing a penalty notice with a fixed penalty charge that otherwise applies immediately upon expiry of the prescribed period.

41. (new): A system according to claim 40, wherein the parking space is manageable by selecting the durations of the prescribed and subsequent periods, the durations of the successive time increments, the values of the fixed and variable charge rates, and combinations thereof.

42. (new): A method of managing a parking space having a prescribed period for parking a vehicle therein, the method including the steps of:

sensing parking of a vehicle in the parking space;
charging a fixed charge rate for sensed parking during the prescribed period;
charging a variable charge rate for sensed parking during a subsequent period successive to the prescribed period, wherein the variable charge rate increases for successive time increments of the subsequent period to thereby increasingly discourage overstaying the prescribed period without manually issuing a penalty notice with a fixed penalty charge that otherwise applies immediately upon expiry of the prescribed period.

43. (new): A method according to claim 42, further including the step of selecting the durations of the prescribed and subsequent periods, the durations of the successive time increments, the values of the fixed and variable charge rates, and combinations thereof.